



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith
Francesca Massarotto, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Date: February 16, 2016

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on February 16, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Francesca Massarotto, SWCA biologist, beginning at 5:50am and ending at 3:45 pm. Weather conditions were sunny and clear. Temperatures ranged from 61°F in the morning to 82°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with planting sage mix and working on electrical and irrigation in the Northeast Basin, cement wall work at the tide gate, small trench excavation for running conduit along the Northeast portion of the future bike path, earth moving and compaction of soil near the new boat ramp, along with retaining wall and planting bed assembly activities along the Southeast rim of the Basin. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities, and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

5:50 am. The Biological Monitor arrives on site and the gate is opened by the first crew member to arrive.

6:15 am. The Biological Monitor conducts a preconstruction survey of the Basin.

6:20 am. Three dump trucks pull off Washington Blvd and await the start of work-day.

6:23 am. A Black Phoebe is observed sallying around the storm drain in the northeast section of the

Basin.

6:28 am. A small flock of Lesser Goldfinches and an Anna's Hummingbird are observed chattering in the Eastern Pines and Eucalyptus trees along the current bike path.

6:37 am. Two Mallards are observed flying in from the southwest to land and swim in the central Basin.

6:41 am. Two American Coots are observed in the west Basin on the south side of the tide berm.

6:43 am. A Black Phoebe is observed sallying around the tide gate and West bank.

6:45 am. A Great Egret is observed perched on the tide gate railing, stalking the water. Two Anna's Hummingbirds are observed hunting over the west Basin.

6:47 am. A Great Blue Heron is observed flying in from the West to perch on the tide berm and takes off two minutes later. Two more Mallards are observed joining the group in the east Basin.

7:00 am. Bio-awareness training is conducted. The training consists of a description of current wildlife observations and a reminder to pay attention for wildlife and pick up all trash.

7:15 am. Work begins. The irrigation system is turned on at the northeast peninsula and crews begin moving the stockpiles of contaminated soil and concrete debris to trucks for removal. Four Mallards and one Western Gull are observed wading and foraging by the west bank.

7:20 am. Crews begin laying conduit for lighted walkway along the trench on the south rim of the Basin. The tide gate is opened. A Western Gull is observed flying away from the Basin.

7:30 am. A Double Crested Cormorant is observed swimming in the west Basin.

7:40 am. Five American Crows are observed foraging among plants along the southwest bank. Four Mallards are observed swimming in the central Basin. One worker is observed picking up trash in the work area.

8:00 am. Three pairs of Mallards are observed in the central Basin, and four American Crows are observed on the muddy northern banks. A Double Crested Cormorant, a Snowy Egret, and a Black Phoebe are observed perched on the walls lining the stormwater outfall near two workers with shovels digging and planting along the northeast bank above the silt fencing.

8:05 am. The Stormwater monitor is observed on site at the west bank. Two Killdeer are observed foraging on the northern bank near six Mallards. A Belted Kingfisher is observed flying in and perching on the powerline pole at the northwest Peninsula. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is observed foraging on the bank of the central Basin. An Anna's Hummingbird is observed flying into the eucalyptus by the Pump House.

8:25 am. Two American Coots and two Mallards are observed entering the stormwater outfall, with the Double Crested Cormorant and Snowy Egret still standing on the walls; a Black Phoebe is observed sallying around. Approximately 30 American Crows are observed flying over the Basin and move off in many different directions.

8:30 am. An active Anna's Hummingbird nest is observed in the eastern of two pines located on the south rim of the Basin near Admiralty Way. A female Anna's hummingbird is observed sitting on the nest, likely incubating eggs, and occasionally flying off to forage and then return. The nest is located on an outer hanging branch approximately 20 feet above the foundation for the central observation deck built between the two pine trees.

8:45 am. The Biologist informs the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record of the Anna's Hummingbird nest and the need to observe a 100-foot buffer of no heavy equipment and restricted work activity to avoid disturbing the nesting bird.

9:15 am. The Anna's Hummingbird is observed away from the nest foraging; the Double Crested Cormorant and Snowy Egret are observed on the Stormwater outfall walls; two Killdeer are observed on the northern bank of the Basin.

9:20 am. The female Anna's Hummingbird is observed back on the nest. Two workers are jackhammering over 150 feet east of the nest.

9:35 am. Pink flagging tape and a wildlife sign are placed on stakes and fencing along Admiralty Way 100 feet around the nest. The slope around the pines is already graded; thus, heavy equipment should not need to access the slope.

9:50 am. Irrigation holding containers are hauled out by the crew. The sprinklers on the northern peninsula are activated and a worker waters the plants on the east bank with a hose.

10:00 am. Another Anna's Hummingbird nest is observed in the high branches of a pine tree neighboring the pine in which the active nest is located. No nesting activity was observed at the second nest.

10:10 am. An Osprey is observed flying in and landing in the twin pines, taking off, circling around the Basin, and landing on the pole over the west Basin where it is momentarily pestered by crows. A Double Crested Cormorant and the two American Coots are observed foraging in the northeast outfall.

10:27 am. A Monarch butterfly is observed flying over the Basin from south to north passing along vegetation on the northern bank of the Basin. A pair of Mourning Doves are observed sitting on the power line over the west Basin.

10:35 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is observed foraging in the southern pines, and the Double Crested Cormorant swims in southwest basin by tide gates.

10:45 am. The Osprey is observed circling the Basin and lands on the crossarm of the wooden H-frame on the northwest side of the Basin. Some of the crewmembers work with an excavator by the boat launch to assemble a retaining wall along the southeastern rim of the Basin.

10:50 am. An Allen's Hummingbird is observed hunting over the east channel of the Basin. A Dark-eye Junco is observed singing in the eucalyptus above the pump house. A pair of American Coots is observed foraging near the boat launch.

11:07 am. A Double Crested Cormorant and Black Phoebe are observed near the northeast outfall. Two crew members work on electrical for the platforms on the north rim of the Basin while the other workers excavate a small conduit trench along the northeast rim of the Basin.

11:15 am. A Monarch Butterfly is observed moving west among the new plants along the northern side of the Basin. The butterfly leaves the Basin after ten minutes.

11:30 am. The female Anna's Hummingbird is observed sitting on the nest. A worker begins vacuuming the concrete foundation for the observation deck below and west of the nest. The hummingbird leaves and returns to the nest undisturbed by the activities below. A Double Crested Cormorant and a Snowy Egret are observed in the northeast Basin waters.

11:33 am. A Monarch Butterfly is observed flying southeast over the Basin. House Finches are heard singing outside of the Basin.

11:40 am. An Osprey is observed circling the Basin and landing on the H frame.

11:47 am. A Red-Tailed Hawk is observed flying southeast over the Basin.

11:51 am. The crewmember completes the vacuuming work and the Anna's Hummingbird remains on the active nest.

11:55 am. Two Killdeer are observed along the mud flats of the northern bank of the Basin.

12:00 pm. The Crews break for lunch. The Osprey is observed flying over the Basin and catching a 6-inch fish from the Basin, and perching back on the H-frame.

12:23 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is observed foraging among the potted plants on the west bank of the Basin.

12:28 pm. Workers resume construction activities. A bulldozer is used to remove concrete debris.

12:42 pm. Two Killdeer are observed foraging on the northwest bank/mudflats of the Basin.

12:54 pm. A Red-Tailed Hawk is observed in a palm over the southwestern Marina.

12:58 pm. The Anna's Hummingbird female remains on the active nest.

1:08 pm. The Osprey is observed catching another fish in the eastern area of the Basin and returning to the H-frame.

1:20 pm. The Osprey catches a third fish from the Basin.

1:25 pm. A Red-Tailed Hawk is observed flying over the Basin and is chased off by several crows.

1:50 pm. The Anna's Hummingbird female remains on the active nest with the crewmember working below. The hummingbird is often observed flying over to feeders on the apartment balconies.

2:07 pm. The Osprey is observed leaving the Basing after failing to catch another fish.

2:13 pm. The Crewmember working near the active nest completes the work in the area; an Anna's Hummingbird is observed hunting in a cloud of gnats over the west bank of the Basin.

2:17 pm. A pair of Common Ravens is observed flying over the Basin. A Belted Kingfisher is observed foraging over the Basin from the east moving out west. A Snowy Egret is observed perched on the berm near the tide gates.

2:22 pm. A Monarch Butterfly from the west is observed on the northern bank and eventually moves off toward the northwest.

2:30 pm. A Red-tailed Hawk is observed flying high over the east side of the Basin and moving south over the apartment buildings.

2:38 pm. Two American Coots are observed foraging in the east portion of the Basin. Two crewmembers dig, plant, and prep the soil near the northeast outfall.

3:00 pm. The female Anna's Hummingbird remains at the active nest. A Snowy Egret is observed on the berm in the center of the Basin. Two American Coots are observed swimming in the eastern Basin. A Double Crested Cormorant is observed swimming in the northwest Basin. Two Killdeer are observed in the northwest mudflats in the Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler is observed foraging in the recently planted cottonwoods on the west bank of the Basin.

3:15 pm. A cement truck finishes pouring concrete for the new retaining wall on west side of the tide gates.

3:26 pm. A Great Blue Heron is observed flying from the southwest to land in eastern channel of the Basin. A Double Crested Cormorant is observed flying over the berm from the south side of the Basin to the north side of the Basin.

3:30 pm. The crew closes up fences; brings in equipment and cleans the lot.

3:45 pm. All workers depart from the site and the gate is closed. The pair of Killdeer is observed closer to edge of the water and shows no sign of active nesting. House finches, Mourning doves, and a yellow-rumped warbler are observed on the west bank of the Basin.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, or California Least Terns were observed today. One Osprey hunted in the Basin for approximately four hours. It successfully caught three fish out of five fishing attempts. It did not seem bothered by the outside construction activities.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

Several Monarch Butterflies were observed visiting the new vegetation today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction.

Anna's Hummingbird Nest

An Active Anna's Hummingbird nest was noted in the eastern of two pines located on the south rim of the Basin near Admiralty Way. The nest is located on an outer hanging branch approximately 20 feet above the foundation for the central observation deck built between the two pine trees. The nest was constructed toward the Admiralty Way side of the pine tree. (See attached photos).

The Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record were immediately informed of the presence of the active nest and a 100-foot buffer of no heavy equipment and restricted work activity was established around the nest using flagging tape and signage. The slope around the pines is already graded; thus, heavy equipment should not need to access the slope.

The Anna's hummingbird nest was monitored intermittently throughout the day's construction activities. The female is likely incubating eggs. She was observed sitting for longer periods during the peak temperatures of the day and would fly away briefly to drink from feeders on the apartment complex across Admiralty Way. During the cooler hours, the hummingbird would likely hunt gnats when it left the nest. The female hummingbird was not disturbed by light human activity below, consisting of the presence of the biological monitor and vacuuming of the concrete pad below by a crew member. During these activities, the female remained on the nest, occasionally flying away to forage and then returning to sit on the nest.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) was informed of the presence of the active nest. The Nesting Bird Management Plan (CDM Smith 2015) will be updated for the Anna's hummingbird nest, including life history information on nesting duration and other species-specific information. The purpose of the Nesting Bird Management Plan is to avoid disturbance of the nest while allowing construction activities to proceed with any necessary restrictions based on ongoing monitoring of the active nest by the biological monitor during construction activities.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife activity is calm in the early morning, and becomes more active around 8:00 am. Activity then consists of nearly the same individuals moving about the basin throughout the day.
3. The nesting female Anna's Hummingbird was not disturbed by light activity (vacuuming) below the nest. The biologist will continue to monitor the active nest during construction activities.
4. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the Marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely relocated during construction.
5. Wildlife activity largely consists of birds flying over the Basin and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way, Washington Boulevard, near the bike path, and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on February 16, 2016.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on February 16, 2016		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	One foraging; Very common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several individuals observed sitting on power lines and flying overhead
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	A few observed foraging throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch foraging throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	One female was observed sitting on a nest, likely incubating eggs. Several other individuals were observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin.

Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	One individual observed foraging over the Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Six individuals swimming throughout the Basin
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Several individuals calling from the palms on Washington, and a few foraging on West Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One individual on the Berm near the Tide Gates.
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	On individual in the Central Basin mudflat.
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	A pair of individuals foraged and sat along banks of northwest mudflats.
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	One individual perched on the powerline posts
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	One individual observed swimming, foraging, and basking in the Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	One individual observed in Basin
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	One individual observed fishing in Basin
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	One individual observed overhead



Figure 1. Tree in which the active Anna's Hummingbird nest was observed



Figure 2. Close up of active Anna's Hummingbird nest



Figure 3. 100 foot buffer surrounding active Anna's Hummingbird nest



Figure 4. Osprey observed hunting within Basin



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Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on February 17, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Francesca Massarotto, SWCA biologist, beginning at 5:55am and ending at 3:20pm. Weather conditions were mostly sunny in the morning, cloudier in the early afternoon, and rainy in the afternoon. Temperatures ranged from 59°F in the early morning to 73°F. Some light rain fell beginning around noon but was not measurable until it picked up around 3:00 pm when work was halted for the day.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with planting on the north side of the Basin, electrical work on in the northeast and southern rim of the Basin, cement wall work at the tide gate, back -filling and soil compaction near the boat ramp, retaining wall assembly, and planting bed assembly along the southeast rim of the Basin. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities, and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

5:55 am. The Biological Monitor arrives on site. The gate is open and two work trucks are parked in the layout yard.

6:15 am. The Biological Monitor begins a preconstruction survey of the Basin.

6:22 am. A Great Blue Heron is observed on the berm near the center of the Basin but it leaves five minutes later heading east. A Black Phoebe is heard outside of the site near the northeast corner of

the Basin.

6:25 am. Two Mallards are observed flying in from the west into the eastern Basin and are followed by three more Mallards. Dark-eyed Juncos, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Lesser Goldfinches and an Anna's Hummingbird are observed singing and flocking within the ornamental trees over the northeast bike path and in trees on Admiralty Way.

6:32 am. A small mixed flock of Bushtits and Yellow-rumped Warblers are observed foraging within large eucalyptus trees over the pump house.

6:40 am. Two American Coots are observed on the south side of the tide berm in the west Basin. The Anna's Hummingbird nest is unoccupied upon the biologist's arrival to the location but the female Anna's Hummingbird is observed visiting the nest soon after the initial observation.

6:50 am. A California Gull is observed flying low over Basin and a Double-crested Cormorant flies into the Basin from the west.

6:55 am. A Red-tailed Hawk is observed sitting in the palm on Washington Boulevard and three American Crows are diving at it.

7:00 am. The Biological Monitor presents a Bio-awareness training to the crewmembers present at the site for the day. The training consists of a description of current wildlife observations, conditions and circumstances regarding the hummingbird nest, and a reminder to pick up all trash.

7:10 am. The construction crews begin backfilling and compacting the soil on the Basin slopes near the boat launch. Crew began planting on northeast bank, and installing electrical conduit additions all around the Basin. The crews also continued construction of the cement retaining wall by the tide gate.

7:15 am. A Double-crested Cormorant is observed swimming in the northwest side of the Basin; a pair of American Coots is observed in the eastern Basin, and three Mallards are observed in the central Basin.

7:20 am. The Cormorant is observed leaving the Basin, an American Crow is observed calling on the poles over the west rim of the Basin. The sprinklers are activated on the northwestern peninsula.

7:30 am. The Anna's hummingbird female is observed on the nest, a few of the workers arrive with equipment to work on the observation deck electrical below the active nest. Two Mallards are observed leaving the Basin going west. The female hummingbird continues sitting on the nest.

7:45 am. A crewmember vacuums and preps the observation deck foundation for conduit. The Anna's hummingbird female is not disturbed by the work and continues sitting on the nest.

7:55 am. The female Anna's hummingbird is observed gnat-catching around the pines. The American Coots are observed foraging in the eastern portion of the Basin.

8:00 am. Two Mallards are observed flying into north central Basin from the west.

8:10 am. An American Coot is observed swimming into the east channel towards boat launch. The crew is compacting the soil and filling in the retaining wall along the Southeast rim. A mini-excavator is removing metal debris from the area by dumping it into a truck to be carried out.

8:25 am. At the Anna's hummingbird nest, the female continues tending the nest while a crewmember vacuums the overlook foundation below. A pair of Mallards is observed leaving the Basin to the west; two American Coots are observed in the east side of the Basin.

8:40 am. Two Coots are observed together in the east Basin. An Anna's hummingbird male is observed flying over the western layout yard. The crew begins disassembling the pumping equipment to take offsite. A Black Phoebe sallies around the fencing along the western flats of the Basin.

9:10 am. The Biological Monitor instructs the crew to back their truck and trailer away from nest location when they enter from the street to unload equipment. The female Anna's Hummingbird shows no sign of distress or disturbance and continues sitting on the nest.

9:20 am. A bulldozer loads dump trucks with old chain link fencing and metal materials in the west lot for removal offsite.

9:44 am. Two Common Ravens are observed flying over the Basin from the east going west.

9:47 am. The Red-tailed Hawk is observed in the palm tree closer to the northwest corner of the Basin. American Crows are observed diving at it.

10:25 am. The irrigation workers are loading equipment and are preparing to leave.

10:30 am. The Anna's Hummingbird female is again observed on the active nest; the crew is working approximately 40 feet east of the nest and is slowly approaching closer.

11:15 am. American Coots are observed swimming out in the east Basin. The crew is almost finished constructing the wood frame for the retaining wall.

11:25 am. An Osprey is observed kiting and circling high above the Basin. It appears to be the same individual, identified as having a missing RR3 tail feather. It is observed flying around and outside the Basin for several minutes before it sits on the northwest H-frame. The Anna's Hummingbird is again observed sitting on the active nest, and the crewmembers are still working nearby.

11:30 am. A few of the workers re-plant pickleweed along the inside of the silt fencing in the northeast portion of the Basin.

11:36 am. A California Gull is observed making several low passes over the Basin before moving off

southeast.

11:40 am. Wind speeds begin to increase, the temperature drops and the weather becomes overcast.

11:45 am. Some of the crew break for lunch.

11:50 am. The Osprey is observed circling over the east Basin several times before moving out to the southeast. Crows are observed following close behind the Osprey.

11:55 am. A few raindrops fall within the Basin. Rain is very light and not measurable. Clean and contaminated soils are moved around the northeast portion of the Basin.

12:00 pm. Crews break for lunch. A Dark-eyed Junco is observed foraging in the southwest pines above the ground squirrel burrow.

12:10 pm. A Black Phoebe is observed sallying along west bank of the Basin, and a Yellow-rumped Warbler is observed foraging in the pine above the tide gate.

12:40 pm. The crew and equipment continue working. The American Coot pair is again observed swimming in the east Basin.

12:50 pm. A few raindrops continue falling into the Basin but it is not measurable.

1:15 pm. A pair of American Coots is observed foraging by the boat launch; an Anna's Hummingbird male is observed perched on peppertrees over the bike path in the northeast section of the Basin.

1:30 pm. The crew completes the framing for the retention wall and waits for the cement truck. A few raindrops continue to fall and the crews begin covering the dirt piles and the observation deck foundations with plastic sheeting.

1:35 pm. A Great Blue Heron is observed flying over the Basin from west to east.

1:45 pm. The Anna's Hummingbird female remains sitting at the active nest and the pair of Coots are still in the east Basin.

1:48 pm. A Great Blue Heron is observed flying low over the Basin from east to west.

1:55 pm. The Coots are observed making their way into east channel toward boat launch. A Black Phoebe is observed sallying on fencing along the mouth of the channel, and an American Crow is observed landing on the ground near inactive equipment near the launch.

2:00 pm. The Inspector of Record reports seeing a ground squirrel run through the parking lot.

2:12 pm. The Coots are observed exiting the channel swimming west. The Anna's Hummingbird

female remains sitting at the active nest.

2:38 pm. A Black Phoebe is observed foraging over the northeast porting of the Basin.

2:45 pm. The crew finishes pouring cement into retaining wall frame and begins cleaning up.

2:50 pm. A Great Blue Heron is observed foraging along the central berm moving east. A Snowy Egret is observed on the outfall wall in the northeast Basin.

3:00 pm. Six Mallards are observed flying in from the west to swim in the east Basin.

3:07 pm. The crews pack up their equipment and leave. Rain has increased.

3:20 pm. All workers are gone and the gate is closed.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, or California Least Terns were observed today. What is believed to be the same Osprey seen the day before, returned shortly to hunt in the Basin, but no diving attempts were made before it left and was chased off by crows.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No Monarch Butterflies were observed on site today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction.

The Anna's Hummingbird nest is still active. The nest was monitored intermittently throughout the day's construction activities. The female showed high tolerance of human disturbances, remaining on the nest, occasionally leaving to forage and then returning.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife activity is calm in the early morning, and becomes more active around 8:00 am. Activity was low throughout most of the day with a peak in the afternoon.
3. The Female Anna's Hummingbird is likely incubating eggs. She is very tolerant of human activities and is more distracted by the other birds that occasionally come near the trees.

4. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
5. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on February 17, 2016.

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Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	A few flying overhead
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	A few individuals observed flying low over Basin; not as common as western or ring-billed gulls
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	A few individuals observed sitting on power lines and flying overhead
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	A few observed foraging throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch foraging throughout the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	The female continues tending her nest; several other individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Six individuals swimming in the Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One individual on the Outfall.
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	One individual observed swimming in the Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	One or several individuals observed flying over the Basin and foraging on the Berm
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	One individual observed kiting over Basin
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	One individual observed overhead and in palms



Figure 1. At center: Anna's Hummingbird sitting on nest; long tail facing camera.



Figure 2: Osprey hovering and kiting high over East Basin.



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Biological monitoring was conducted by Francesca Massarotto, SWCA biologist, beginning at 5:45am and ending at 8:00 am. Weather conditions were lightly drizzling to misty around dawn and stopped by mid-morning. Temperatures ranged from 55°F in the early morning to 57°F by 9AM. Measureable rain was recorded during the night.

Due to the wet and muddy conditions, construction work was held off in hopes of drier weather for the following day. The Contractor Superintendent called it a rainy day and sent the six workers who showed up home or to other projects. The Stormwater Monitor and the Inspector of Record remained behind.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the short morning's activities, and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

5:45 am. Biological Monitor arrives on site, following behind the first crewman who has the gate key onto the lot.

5:52 am. The gate is opened and the trucks trickle in. The misty conditions seem to be lightening.

6:05 am. A twilight-silhouetted bird flew off from around the northwest bank and took off south over the basin toward the marina. Due to size, shape, and flight style, it's believed to have been a Great Horned Owl.

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6:12 am. A Red-tailed Hawk flew low over the Basin from North to south toward the Marina. Soon followed by a pair of Black-crowned Night Heron making their way also to the Marina.

6:17 am. It begins sprinkling again.

6:20 am. A pair of Mallards and a pair of American Wigeon are seen swimming in the North Central Basin.

6:22 am. A light rain begins.

6:29 am. Another pair of Black-crowned Night Heron fly higher over the basin from the east going southwest to the marina.

6:35 am. The biological monitor begins a survey of the Basin. A Yellow-rumped Warbler forages in the vegetation on the Northwest bank.

6:40 am. Seven total American Wigeon are present in the Central Basin moving East.

6:45 am. Six geese fly from the East into the Southwest Basin and onto the berm. They begin to swim counterclockwise around the basin. Photos were taken for identification assistance.

6:58 am. The biologist observes the active Anna's Hummingbird nest. The female hummingbird flew off the nest to forage around the pine and across the road, likely headed for the feeders.

7:05 am. The Basin's seemingly resident pair of American Coots appear from the East Channel and are headed toward the group of geese who are making their way to three of the American Wigeon in the Northeast Basin. A Dark-eyed Junco sings in the eucalyptus trees across the road by the apartment buildings.

7:07 am. The other four American Widgeon are in the Central Basin with the two Mallards swimming to Northwest portion. A Black Phoebe forages in the Northeast Outfall area.

7:10 am. Another Mallard pair is in the East Channel. The six geese leave west after honking before takeoff.

7:15 am. A Snowy Egret flies in from the west, lands on the water's edge along the Eastern Peninsular.

7:20 am. A Double-crested Cormorant is now swimming in the North Central Basin. The Anna's Hummingbird female sits back on her nest. The two American Coots are in the flooded Northwest flats. The seven American Wigeon are by the Snowy Egret in the East Central Basin.

7:30 am. The Contractor Superintendent call off work due to wet conditions. No Bio Awareness Training is needed as crew are leaving. All seven Widgeon leave the Basin going northwest.

7:40 am. An Allen's Hummingbird forages from the vegetation on the West rim; goes north. The two Coots are in the Northwest Basin with the Cormorant swimming closer to the berm in the same section. A Black Phoebe sallies along the fencing around the Northwest Flats.

7:48 am. The geese are positively identified as Egyptian Geese.

7:50 am. The Inspector of Record arrives at the site. One American Wigeon returns from the northwest to swim in the East Basin.

8:00 am. The Biologist and Contractor Superintendent leave location, with the Inspector of Record and Stormwater Monitor remaining behind.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No Monarch Butterflies were observed on site today.

The Anna's Hummingbird nest is still active. From the Biologist's observations, it is assumed she is still incubating eggs. The female hummingbird continues to show a high tolerance of human activity, staying on the nest with the presence of people nearby, occasionally flying off the forage and then returning to the nest.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. The Female Anna's Hummingbird is incubating eggs. She is very tolerant of loud noises and human activities, and is more distracted by the other birds that near the trees.
3. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated during construction.
4. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on February 18, 2016.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on February 18, 2016		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	A few observed foraging throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	A few observed foraging throughout the Basin
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	One individual observed foraging over the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	A few individuals observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Four individuals swimming in the Basin
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Seven individuals swimming in the Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One individual foraging in the Northeast flats
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Several pairs seen flying over the Basin in the early dawn light.
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	One individual observed swimming in the Basin
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	One individual observed overhead and in palms
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	One individual seen leaving the Basin in the early dawn light.
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	Six individuals observed swimming in the Basin



Figure 1: The six mystery fowl nearing the southern bank; Egyptian Geese



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith
Francesca Massarotto, SWCA Environmental Consultants

Date: February 19, 2016

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on February 19, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Francesca Massarotto, SWCA biologist, beginning at 5:50am and ending at 5:25pm. Weather conditions were sunny and mostly clear. Temperatures ranged from 52°Fahrenheit in the morning to 64° Fahrenheit in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with laying and attaching electrical and irrigation systems in the north and south of the Basin, foundation construction and cement prep for the observation decks along the south rim of the Basin, earth moving and compaction of soil near the new boat ramp. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities, and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

5:48 am. The Biological Monitor arrives on site and observes that the gate is already open. A few vehicles are present.

6:13 am. A Mourning Dove flies over from south to north over the western portion of the Basin.

6:15 am. The Biological Monitor conducts a preconstruction survey of the Basin. Four American Wigeons swim in the eastern portion of the Basin moving west; a few more American Wigeons follow.

6:27 am. Six American Wigeons and six Gadwall are foraging in the eastern portion of the Basin. Two Black Phoebe are observed outside of the northeastern section of the Basin. Lesser Goldfinches and Anna's Hummingbirds are observed in the pines on the Northeast Rim.

6:30 am. A Snowy Egret in the Outfall moves to hunt at the tide gates. One American Coot is swimming in the center of the Basin.

6:37 am. Two more American Wigeons and a female Lesser Scaup are swimming in the eastern channel within the Basin. The six American Wigeons fly off to the west.

6:45 am. The two American Wigeons and the six Gadwalls are in the eastern portion of the Basin, the two American Coots are foraging on the east bank of the Basin, and the Lesser Scaup is observed nearby, diving in the water.

6:48 am. The active Anna's Hummingbird nest is observed and the female Anna's Hummingbird is still sitting on the nest. A Black Phoebe is observed on the silt fencing below the nest. The female Anna's Hummingbird is then observed gnat-catching around the pine.

6:50 am. The Anna's Hummingbird does not appear to be disturbed by the presence of the Biological monitor. The hummingbird flies off and is back on the nest two minutes later.

7:00 am. A Double-crested Cormorant swims in the lower northwest side of the Basin near the tide gate.

7:05 am. A Bio-awareness training is conducted. The training consists of a description of current wildlife observations and a reminder to pay attention for wildlife and pick up all trash observed within the Basin.

7:15 am. The crews begin moving stockpiles of contaminated soil for removal. They also begin unloading clean sand and soil in the lot and on the northeast rim of the basin.

7:23 am. Four Mallards flyover and join the American Coots, Wigeon, and Gadwall in the eastern portion of the Basin. A Snowy Egret is on the east end of the Berm within the Basin.

7:30 am. The Female Anna's Hummingbird is on the active nest looking north at the water within the Basin.

7:40 am. The two American Wigeons are in the center of the Basin, a Double-crested Cormorant is sunning itself on the wall of the Outfall, a Lesser Scaup is floating in the eastern portion of the Basin near foraging American Coots. Six Gadwalls and two Mallards are in the eastern channel within the Basin. The crew is digging and spreading soil on the northeast slope near the outfall within the Basin. Other crewmembers are backfilling the southern rim of the Basin moving west from the boat launch.

7:50 am. The Snowy Egret and Double-crested Cormorant are standing next to each other in the Outfall wall. The pair of Mallards and the pair of American Wigeon are swimming in the north central area of the Basin. The six Gadwalls are with one of the Coots near the mouth of the eastern channel within the Basin.

7:55 am. The Female Anna's Hummingbird is sitting on the nest and looking west. Two Killdeer are observed on the muddy banks of the western peninsula of the Basin. Two American Wigeons are swimming nearby. Four American Crows are foraging on the northwest bank of the Basin.

8:25 am. The crew is burying conduit on both sides of the Basin.

8:30 am. A Great Egret flies in from the west to land within the Basin.

8:35 am. A Great Egret and Snowy Egrets are following a swimming Double-crested Cormorant around the berm and west to the mudflat. An American Crow dives at a Common Raven that is perched on a utility pole in the northeast portion of the Basin.

8:47 am. The female Anna's Hummingbird is observed bringing tan-colored fluffy nesting material back to the nest. The two Killdeer are now more on the Central Mudflat, the Snowy Egret is on the Berm, the Great Egret is on the eastern peninsula within the Basin moving to the berm and is still following the Cormorant around.

9:02 am. The two American Wigeons fly into the mouth of the eastern portion of the Basin, and join two Mallards, two American Coots, one Lesser Scaup female, and six Gadwalls.

9:12 am. The workers continue to place soil along the southern rim of the Basin, remove the fencing along Admiralty Way, and block the lane on Admiralty Way for the construction vehicles.

9:35 am. The crews continue earth moving activities and compaction at the southeast rim of the Basin. Dark-eyed Juncos and Yellow-rumped warblers are foraging in the trees along the bike path.

9:48 am. A Belted Kingfisher hunts from the east side of the berm and from the stakes jutting from the Basin floor. The two American Wigeons and the two Mallards move east.

9:54 am. The Double-crested Cormorant leaves the Basin flying southwest towards the Marina. The Great Egret is still on the east side of the Berm. The two Killdeer are still standing around the Central mudflat.

9:56 am. A crewmember is working on the wood frame for the concrete wall foundation below the active nest site. The female Anna's Hummingbird is not present; it is observed foraging among pine branches and within a minute, she is back on the nest.

10:10 am. The Female Anna's Hummingbird remains on the nest.

10:14 am. The crewmember finishes beneath the active nest and moves on to the east to the next

observation deck.

10:18 am. The Female Anna's Hummingbird is off the nest to feed, and brings back white fluff which is added to the nest.

10:25 am. Another Anna's Hummingbird and a Townsend's Warbler are observed foraging in the western-most pine near the tide gate. The Great Egret is on the berm next to the gates.

10:40 am. The Belted Kingfisher is observed hunting from the powerlines over the northeast section of the Basin.

10:43 am. House Sparrows and a Yellow-rumped Warbler forage among the vegetation on the western bank within the Basin.

10:50 am. The Belted Kingfisher and the Snowy Egret left the basin heading southwest. The Great Egret is in the eastern portion of the Basin near the berm.

11:00 am. The Killdeer are foraging among the puddles on the Central mudflat. A male Anna's Hummingbird is singing from a light post on Washington Blvd.

11:08 am. The female Lesser Scaup is observed diving within the central portion of the Basin and two Mallards are nearby moving along the berm.

11:30 am. Two American Wigeon are in the northwest portion of the Basin.

11:35 am. A Great Blue Heron flies in from the east to land on the western part of the berm near the tide gates.

11:45 am. A Yellow-rumped Warbler, two Dark-eyed Juncos, and a Black Phoebe forage in the southwest pines and within the vegetation on the western bank of the Basin. The Great Blue Heron joins the Great Egret at the east end of the berm. The pair of American Coots and the six Gadwalls are observed at the mouth of the eastern channel of the Basin.

11:50 am. The crews use trucks to continue hauling old dirt out of the Basin and bringing sand and soil to the northeast section of the Basin as well as the layout yard.

11:58 am. A pair of Common Ravens and House Finches land on the wires and utility poles over the western bank of the Basin.

12:00 pm. Some of the crew breaks for lunch. The electricians stopped work after 11am for a short time and continued work over onto the south rim.

12:10 pm. Conduit work and ground compacting on the south rim of the Basin begins moving west toward the active nest site.

12:32 pm. The Female Anna's Hummingbird is sitting on the nest while two crewmembers are working within thirty feet of the active nest location. A Black Phoebe and a Yellow-rumped Warbler are foraging nearby. A cement truck with a long extending arm and hose configuration is used to fill framing set up for the western observation deck foundations.

12:40 pm. Two Gadwalls and two Mallards are sitting on the berm within the Basin, the Lesser Scaup is in the eastern portion of the Basin, and two Coots and four Gadwalls are foraging near the east channel of the Basin. Two Killdeer are standing in the northwest portion of the Basin, and a Great Blue Heron is on the bank of the eastern peninsula facing the center of the Basin.

12:45 pm. The crewmen are finished working by the nest for now. The female hummingbird is still sitting on the nest.

12:52 pm. A male and female Gadwall are sleeping on the berm.

1:18 pm. The female Anna's Hummingbird leaves the nest, goes across Admiralty Way towards the buildings, and then immediately returns to the nest. Some of the crewmembers are measuring the slope and gradient of the northeast bank of the Basin where they have been shoveling soil and preparing the area for more plants.

1:30 pm. A few crewmembers begin work under the nest location, filling the foundation framing below the nest with cement. The female Anna's Hummingbird returns from foraging and is not disturbed by the construction activities. A Great Blue Heron is on the berm and two Mallards move off the berm and swim eastward.

1:55 pm. Two American Coots and six Gadwalls are in the eastern portion of the Basin. Two Killdeer are by the western peninsula at the edge of the water. Two American Wigeons are observed in the Central Basin. A Lesser Scaup is swimming in the northwest portion of the Basin.

2:00 pm. The cement pumping arm comes very close to the hummingbird nest during construction activities. The Anna's Hummingbird on the nest can be seen occasionally glancing in the direction of the cement arm.

2:05 pm. The hose arm comes within three or four feet of the nest before the pouring is finished and the crew moves on to the deck to the east. The female is still sitting and never left during the short time the crew was present near the nest.

2:08 pm. The female hummingbird leaves the nest, flying straight toward the balconies and is back on the nest within a minute looking north towards the water. No sign of distress.

2:35 pm. Two crewmembers clean up the poured cement and finish the observation deck cement using shovels.

2:50 pm. Most of the crew is now preparing to leave. The fence is rebuilt along Admiralty Way.

3:10 pm. The cement truck is almost finished pouring for the western deck. The street safety measures need to remain until the cement truck finishes pouring for all the deck foundations.

3:25 pm. An Anna's Hummingbird male sits on a cottonwood tree on the west slope of the Basin.

3:40 pm. The female Anna's Hummingbird leaves the nest and then returns a couple of minutes later. Four Gadwalls are observed on the water by the Outfall. A Great Blue Heron forages from the east end of the berm. Two American Coots are foraging in the eastern portion of the Basin. A Black Phoebe sallies along the eastern channel of the Basin. Two Killdeer are on the western peninsula.

3:55 pm. The cement truck arrives to finish pumping cement into the western deck foundation. A Snowy Egret landed on the east side of the berm.

4:10 pm. The remaining crew move east to the observation decks that are not yet complete.

4:40 pm. The crew pours cement for the final observation deck. A belted Kingfisher hunts from the railing above the tide gates.

4:50 pm. A Peregrine Falcon is observed flying around the apartment buildings southeast of the Basin.

5:00 pm. The cement crew is finished, and the northernmost lane on Admiralty Way is re-opened. The road crew finishes collecting cones and closing up the rest of the fencing.

5:05 pm. The Peregrine Falcon is observed chasing down six flying Mallards into the eastern portion of the Basin.

5:25 pm. All remaining workers depart from the site and the gate is closed.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No Monarch Butterflies were observed today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction.

Anna's Hummingbird Nest: The female has been sitting on the nest for longer periods through the day. Fluffy nesting material is occasionally brought to fix and add to the nest. When the large equipment was used near the nest location, no signs of distress were observed and the hummingbird was not disturbed by human activity throughout the entire day.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife activity is calm in the early morning, and becomes more active around 8:00 am. Activity then consists of nearly the same individuals moving about the basin throughout the day. During midday many birds either moved off or napped at the hotter times of the day and then moved back or increased activity by the early evening.
3. The nesting female Anna's Hummingbird was not disturbed by heavy activity (pouring cement) below the nest. The biologist will continue to monitor the active nest during construction activities.
4. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the Marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely relocated during construction.
5. Wildlife activity largely consists of birds flying over the Basin and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way, Washington Boulevard, near the bike path, and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on February 19, 2016.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on February 19, 2016		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	A few flying overhead and perching over the basin.
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common flying overhead
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Two individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead

Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	A few observed foraging throughout the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch foraging throughout the Basin
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis oreganus</i>	Several individuals observed singing and foraging in and outside of the basin trees.
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>	One male individual observed foraging in Pine
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	One female was observed sitting on a nest, likely incubating eggs. Several other individuals were observed hovering overhead or perching throughout the Basin.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Six individuals swimming in the Basin
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Eight individuals swimming in the Basin
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Six individuals swimming in the Basin
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	One female forging in the Basin
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Several individuals calling from the palms on Washington, and a few foraging on West Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One individual on the Berm near the Tide Gates.
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	On individual in the Central Basin mudflat.
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	A pair of individuals foraged and sat along banks of northwest mudflats.
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	One individual hunting from the berm, tide-gate and power-poles in the Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	One individual observed swimming, foraging, and basking in the Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	One individual observed in Basin
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	One individual hunting over the basin around the apartment buildings.



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*From: Jennifer Jones, CDM Smith
John Ivanov, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: February 20, 2016

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on February 20, 2016, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by John Ivanov, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:30 am and ending at 3:30p.m. Weather conditions during the day were clear skies, with temperatures ranging from 50°F in the morning to a high of 76°F in the afternoon.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with planting along the North, and West embankments, grading for the Southern pedestrian pathway including access to the Southern observation point, and excavation for drainage control at the east inlet. Grading along the Northern embankment included large amounts of fill dirt brought in by dump truck and distributed by bulldozer, backhoe, and hand tools. Earth moving, grading, and compaction of soil was also performed near the pump house. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities, and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:20 am. Biological monitor arrives on site.

6:30 am. Initial Biological Assessment begins. Wildlife observed within the project area utilizing the Basin upon arrival include two Western Gulls, one Yellow-rumped Warbler, two Mallards, two American Widgeons, two American Crows, five Rock Pigeons, three California Gulls, and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

6:55 am. The biological monitor gave the bio-awareness training to the crew totaling 23 workers. Training consisted of a description of current wildlife observations, reminder to be aware of the active Anna's hummingbird nest to avoid disturbance, and a reminder to watch for other wildlife in the work area, including Monarch butterflies.

7:25 am. Trainings and safety tailboards were completed. Crew has begun prepping for work grading, planting, and drainage at the eastern most inlet of the basin.

Note: Check of Anna's Hummingbird confirms continued sitting on nest in pines along southern edge of site.

7:46 am. Upon arrival there were six American Widgeons, six Gadwalls, five Lesser Scaup, and two American Coots utilizing the basin. A House Finch was observed flying overhead.

8:05 am. The crew has begun grading along the southern walkway and the southern wildlife observation platform using hand tools.

8:32 am. A small backhoe and a bobcat is being used to grade along the southern walkway.

8:40 am. Grading and planting continues along the northern edge of the project site by hand, dump truck and bulldozer.

9:03 am. Drainage inlet work on the outside perimeter of the site at the eastern most inlet using a jackhammer attached to a bobcat.

9:25 am. Bushtits are noted near the eastern inlet.

9:53 am. An Osprey begins fishing over the basin utilizing poles as feeding posts. Five American Crows and five Ring-billed Gulls are observed flying over the basin.

10:14 am. A Snowy Egret, a Great Egret, a Black Phoebe, and a Double-crested Cormorant are feeding near the pump house, while grading and forms for concrete are prepared nearby.

10:38 am. The Osprey continues fishing as a Yellow-rumped Warbler forages along the western most embankments.

11:00 am. A Northern Rough-winged and Tree Swallow are noted overhead while work continues at four main locations, grading, planting, and excavating.

11:27 am. A House Sparrow, three House Finches, an American Crow, a California Gull and a Western Gull are noted within the Basin area.

11:50 am. Crews begin to break for lunch. Some continued planting along the northern edge of site.

12:05 am. All crews have left for lunch.

12:59 Work resumes along western walkways and planting along northern edge.

1:23 pm. Dump trucks are being utilized for hauling fill dirt from work yard to northern grading areas. Grading continues using bulldozers, backhoes, and hand tools.

1:50 pm. The Osprey continues successfully catching fish near the pump house.

2:13 pm. A small backhoe being used near pump house and southern walkway, while planting continues across the basin.

2:35 pm. The Anna's Hummingbird is observed on its nest while the buffer area is still intact around its nesting territory with no work going on nearby. A Merlin is seen passing by overhead.

2:57 pm. Hauling fill dirt is winding down and cleaning around the yard has begun. The crews begin cleaning and securing the work areas.

3:23 pm. Crews are wrapping up and begin exiting the work site for the day.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, or California Least Terns were observed today. One Osprey hunted in the Basin for approximately three hours. It successfully caught numbers of 4" or 5" fish with a high success rate. It did not seem bothered at all by the outside construction activities.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

Several Monarch Butterflies were observed visiting the new vegetation today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction.

The active Anna's Hummingbird nest was located and monitored intermittently throughout the day's construction activities. The female showed high tolerance of human disturbances, remaining on the nest, occasionally foraging and returning to the nest.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife activity is calm in the early morning, and becomes more active around 8:00 am. Activity

then consists of nearly the same individuals moving about the Basin throughout the day.

3. The Female Anna's Hummingbird is likely incubating eggs. It sat for longer periods during the peak temperatures of the day and would get off shortly to drink from feeders on the apartment complex. During the cooler hours, the hummingbird would likely hunt gnats when it left the nest. The hummingbird was not disturbed by the work happening below the nest. The biologist will continue to monitor the nest.
4. Waterfowl and wading birds have begun to increase within the Basin with both dabbling and diving ducks feeding.
5. Wildlife activity largely consists of birds flying over the Basin and occurs around the periphery of the project site; while activity has increased within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way, Washington Boulevard, near the bike path, and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on February 20, 2016.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 2, 2016		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Two individuals swimming in the Basin
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Five individuals swimming in the Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	One individual foraging in the Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	One individual foraging in the Basin
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	One individual observed foraging in the Basin
Merlin	<i>Falco Columbarius</i>	One individual observed flying over the Basin
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several observed flying over the Basin
California Gull	<i>Larus californica</i>	Several observed foraging in the Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several observed foraging in the Basin

Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several observed flying over the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	A female continues incubating eggs in a nest along the south side, in the eastern of the 2 twin pines.
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	One individual observed foraging in the Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several observed foraging and flying over the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	One or two individuals observed foraging in the Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Three individuals observed foraging in the Basin
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	One individual observed foraging in the Basin